

Message Text

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FM AMAMEBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2066

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

REF: LISBON 1349

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS JESUINO, IN PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 12, PROVIDED MORE DETAILS ON NEW MILITARY ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT--REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND AFM ASSEMBLY--WHICH WILL BE PRODUCT OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH NOTHING OFFICIAL HAS YET APPEARED ON THE SUBJECT, IDEA OF WHAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) HAS IN MIND WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CREATION OF A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) CAN BE GLEANED FROM

REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT BY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAR. 12. JESUINO SAID THAT AFM DECISION TO INSTITUTIONALIZE ITSELF IMMEDIATELY WOULD BE REFLECTED IN CREATION OF RC COMPOSED OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AND THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE AFM. (ONE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES THAT COUNCIL OF TWENTY WILL ALSO BE ABSORBED INTO THE RC.) WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT RC WILL INCLUDE SOME ENLISTED MILITARY.

2. RC WILL HAVE SAME POWERS PREVIOUSLY EXERCISED BY COUNCIL OF STATE. POWERS WILL BE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE, MADATE BEING THAT OF "LEADING AND DIRECTING THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION."

3. THE OTHER AFM ORGAN, AFM ASSEMBLY, WOULD BE REMODELED VERSION OF PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES (ALSO KNOWN AS COMMITTEE OF 200). ONE DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT WHERE AS COMMITTEE OF 200 COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF OFFICERS, AFM ASSEMBLY MAY, IN WORDS OF JESUINO, INCLUDE SARGEANTS AND ENLISTED MEN AS WELL.

4. WHEN AFM INSTITUTIONALIZED IN LAW, NOTED JESUINO, BOTH NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF AFM WILL BE DISSOLVED AS SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITIES. (PRESUMABLY COUNCIL OF TWENTY WILL ALSO BE DISSOLVED). REGARDING CONSULTATIONS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES OVER INSTITUTIONALIZATION, MINISTER SAID TALKS WILL NOT CONTINUE FURTHER SINCE "THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE."

5. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM JESUINO'S REMARKS, NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BE BASICALLY SAME AS PRESENT COUNCIL OF STATE--MINUS THE CIVILIANS. (MEMBERS OF JUNTA AND AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE CURRENTLY SIT ON COUNCIL OF STATE). DEPARTURE OF CIVILIANS REMOVES IMPORTANT SOURCE OF BALANCE AND INFORMED CRITICISM IN CARRYING OUT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.
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